

having at least two stationary consumable contacts which are in the form of contact rings and which, when the quenching chamber is closed, are electrically conductively connected by means of a bridging contact which is arranged centrally and can move axially and having electrically insulating covers, which at least partially cover mutually facing end surfaces,

wherein a wedge-shaped annular gap, which is open in the radial direction and originates from a contact-making edge of the cover, is provided between a contact-making surface and an insulating cover and

wherein the edge is dielectrically shielded by means of an annular bead which projects beyond the contact-making surface.

2. (Amended) The contact zone as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the edge is arranged in the immediate vicinity of the annular bead.

3. (Amended) The contact zone as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the cover has a rectangular cross section in the region where it covers the contact-making surface and

wherein an elastic projection is integrally formed as a rim, which extends in the axial direction, externally on this rectangular cross section.

4. (Amended) The contact zone as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the rim is provided with means which allow the cover to be connected mechanically to the contact ring, and

wherein the mechanical connection is made such that the edge is always pressed in a sprung manner against the contact-making surface.

5. (Amended) The contact zone as claimed in claim 4,  
wherein the mechanical connection is designed to be detachable.

6. (Amended) The contact zone as claimed in claim 5,  
wherein a snap-action apparatus or a screw connection is provided as the mechanical connection.